An amount of Rs. 73.86 crore has been released for the State of Punjab during 2005-06.

National Population Policy

2492. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Population Policy, 2000 unanimously adopted by the Parliament has clearly eschewed cohesive disincentive-based/ quota oriented population policies;

(b) what steps Government are taking to implement this approach; and

(c) whether Government are aware that many State Governments are following population policies not in conformity with the above approach and the steps Government are taking in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP-2000) is based on the commitment for improving the quality of life that people lead without any coercion or controlling the options of the citizens. The NPP 2000 was approved by the Government and laid on the table of both houses of Parliament in March, 2000.

(b) All the State Governments were requested to formulate State specific plans to implement the National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP). The Government has also launched the National Rural Health Mission on 12.4.2005 to provide for comprehensive integrated primary healthcare services throughout the country and address the unmet needs for contraception which *inter-alia* seeks to stabilize the population growth in the country.

(c) Government of India has taken up with the States the issue of bringing the State Population Policies in line with the objectives of the National Population Policy, 2000.